

T/VIII/M-7
7 April 1965

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD
COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTATION

TASK TEAM VIII - PHOTO CHIP

Minutes of the Seventh Session, 8 - 12 March 1965

Members or Their Representatives Present

DIA - [REDACTED]
CIA - [REDACTED]
ARMY - Lt. Col. James Mylar
Mr. Ben Adams
AIR FORCE - Capt. William Turner, FTD
Maj. Thomas Mongno, TAC
NAVY - Mr. Thomas Seymour
CSS [REDACTED]

1. Briefing/Inspection. The first four days of the session were spent receiving briefings on selected aspects of the chip problem and in touring certain government facilities to inspect chip systems in operation and related equipments, procedures and problems. [REDACTED] Chief, 25X1A CIA/OCR Graphics Register, briefed on the Register's mission and operations, with emphasis on the existing photo chip file, its application and the considerations that led to the selection of the Graphics Register 70mm chip width. Prospective developments in chip files were also discussed.

[REDACTED] CIA/ORR/Geographic Area, presented the plan to apply chips to the problem of storing and reproducing charts and maps, both black and white, and colored. Particular attention was placed on the specialized nature of the requirements for the chip system and the limitations of existing technologies and monies. [REDACTED] 25X1A

[REDACTED] Main topics covered were highly miniaturized silicone diode arrays in relation to high density data block design and read-out techniques, and video and voice correlations [REDACTED] and 25X1A the advanced design and processing techniques embodied in a chip printer under contract, but on which limited information is presently releasable [REDACTED] 25X1A

NAVY and DIA review(s)
completed

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2 [redacted] represented the [redacted] gave a most enlightening presentation regarding the general properties of photo chip storage and retrieval systems, the operating capabilities and deficiencies of existing systems, and the use of weighted system characteristics in developing formulas for application to the design of a given functional chip system. [redacted] 25X1A [redacted] briefed the team on the capabilities of existing and short-term upcoming film and card handling equipments as they related to the photo chip problem.

3. At the Army Map Service, the team received a briefing in the general area on AMS responsibilities and operations in the field of maps, charts, and related materials, with emphasis (a) on present and expected chip applications and (b) on international arrangements. A later briefing on GIMRADA outlined the research and development programs in the mapping and charting fields, especially those bearing on chip size, the use of chips in storage and retrieval and the use of chips in reproduction, both dry and wet, to meet tactical operating needs while reducing logistics burdens and time delays. The team also was briefed at Suitland, Maryland, on the activities of the Naval Oceanographic Office related to the chip inquiry, with particular reference to the emerging R&D needs of Nav Ocean in the chip field, and to the considerations bearing on chip design and size determinations in the early development stages. Also at Suitland, the team received a briefing on the Navy's general utilization program for sensitive aerial photography, and on the several chip applications made to date to meet the priority day-to-day operating needs of the US fleet. The team then toured the Navy's operating chip facilities and inspected both the equipments being used to provide chip systems to operating fleet-components and some R&D equipments being evaluated in relation to future operational requirements in the aerial photo chip field. Of special interest were (a) (RADIC) Navy Storage-Retrieval Display System for Intelligence chips, (b) an R&D system embodying console controlled chip retrieval and electronic display capable of image intensification and zoom magnification; and, (c) the suasion technique of making "chip substitutes" available.

4. The Working Session. The team noted the minutes of the 5-6-7 January session and the 8-12 February session. The team then turned its attention to reviewing the new version of the Terms of Reference which the Chairman explained had been altered by him, [redacted] and the Secretary to meet the deadline set for a CODIB meeting on 4 March, but which was later deferred to March 18. [redacted] raised the point of sharpening the statement of the objective to emphasize the obligation of the team to seek a solution to the standardization problem in the aerial reconnaissance chip field. It was agreed to insert the idea of the feasibility of photo chip standardization ahead of "...recommend to CODIB...", and to add the specific USIB charge to CODIB as a footnote to the objective statement. The Secretary was then instructed to request the CODIB Secretary to disseminate, if time permits, the changed terms to the CODIB members for perusal prior to the next CODIB meeting.

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25X1A 5. The Chairman then advised the team that he and the Secretary and [] acting as an Executive Working Party, inter alia, had prepared a summary status report for the use of the Chairman, CODIB, in briefing the President's Advisory Board on Foreign Intelligence on accomplishments to date by the Community in remedying the deficiencies in information processing cited in the original SCIPS report. The Secretary provided the team members with a summary of the responsibilities of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and a description of the essential recommendations of the SCIPS report. The team requested, and the Chairman agreed, that the Interim Status Report be attached to the current minutes.

25X1A [] reported that the team request for an assessment of film degradation had been forwarded to the appropriate component, and that he would check on the status of the team request for a study of image sizes of certain physical objects as they relate to photo chip physical characteristics.

25X1A [] felt that a draft version of the latter or an oral summary should be available for the next team meeting.

6. Mr. Thomas Seymour proposed that a graphic compilation be made of all chips obtained or inspected to date as an essential preliminary to the next meeting. The Chairman agreed, and Mr. Seymour was selected by acclamation to undertake this project, with authority to call upon any team member for support. (Address - Navy Reconnaissance Technical Support Center, 4301 Suitland Road, Suitland, Maryland) In the discussion that ensued, it was generally agreed that the next meeting of the team should concentrate upon the compilation, summary and analysis of all documentation acquired to date, and that in general the next session should be regarded as the basic preparation of materials to be used in the initial drafting of the team report. It was also agreed that all team members should bring to the next meeting additional samples of operating chip systems and appropriate documentation. The question was raised as to the relationship between the Chip Team inquiry and the DoD R&E program of research in the field of chip creation and chip processing. The Chairman agreed to look into this matter, including the current DIA R&D efforts, and to report at the next session.

25X1A 7. For forward planning, it was agreed that there should be two 2-3 day sessions at two week intervals, and that these should be followed by a full-week session dedicated to the completion of the rough draft of the team report to CODIB. [] agreed to undertake to arrange appropriate facilities for the full-week session. The Secretary agreed to notify all hands of the time and place of the next three sessions as soon as arrangements were completed.

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Attachment: Copy of Interim Task Team Status Report

24 March 1965

Status Report on CODIB Task Team VIII (Photo Chips)

1. General Goal:

The Task Team has set out to examine evidence essential to formulating recommendations to CODIB for the most effective and efficient means of utilizing photo chips, as required, in the processing of photographic information (primarily aerial) for all organizations within the purview of USIB. This called for an assessment of the current and prospective value of photo chips, considering requirements, benefits, and disadvantages of standardization of chips in terms of physical size, internal format design, resolution characteristics, etc.

2. The Plan:

A. Task Team Composition: The Chairman (having served on a special committee of the Inter-Service Coordinating and Integrating Group (ISCIG) that had made recommendations for a standard photo chip to serve the tactical needs of the Department of Defense) selected the most knowledgeable representatives to be found in the services, the Unified and Specified Commands, and CODIB to attack the problem in the most direct and effective manner. The selected Task Team members have the proper clearances, "need to know", and the operational experience to examine all aspects of the problem within the Intelligence Community from both a strategic and tactical viewpoint. Because of the operational applications of any Team findings, the Team has been meeting in regular 3 to 5 day sessions since October 1964.

B. Approach and Action to Date: The Team is examining pertinent reports and as many of the operational and planned photo chip systems as practical, and has obtained briefing on selected aspects of photo chips and related systems from the most knowledgeable people available. Particular attention is being devoted to prospective technological developments pertaining to chip handling equipment, chip content design, film emulsion chemistry, the physics of film bonds and bases, acquisition film sizes and resolution, and the electronics, optics and mechanics involved in chip creation, handling and interpretation.

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